

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 00046 270551Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 H-02
/024 W

-----093902 270552Z /17

R 270507Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 351
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS PESHAWAR 0046

FOR SCS.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJ: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED
ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

RESPONSE TO REFTEL AS BELOW:

A. JUDGES CAN AND DO ASSIGN "PUBLIC DEFENDER" CASES OF
INDIGENT DEFENDANTS TO ANY MEMBER OF LOCAL BAR. AVAILABLE TO ALL,
IN PRINCIPLE.

B. YES, BUT POST EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT IT IS SELDOM USED
BY U.S. NATIONALS. LOCAL LAWYERS APPARENTLY EAGER TO TAKE
CASES ON PROMISE OF LATER PAYMENT OF WHAT ARE USUALLY VERY LOW
FEES.

C. PROBABLY LOWER, AS SYSTEM SEEMS TO OPERATE MUCH AS SIMILAR
ARRANGEMENTS OPERATE IN UNITED STATES, WITH CASES BEING
ASSIGNED MOSTLY TO YOUNGER, LESS EXPERIENCED LAWYERS HANGING
AROUND THE COURT WITHOUT MUCH BUSINESS WHILE MORE EXPERIENCED
AND SUCCESSFUL LAWYERS USUALLY GET SYMPATHETIC HEARING FROM
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JUDGE WHEN EXPLAINING WHY THEY CAN'T TAKE ON A PARTICULAR
CASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PESHAW00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0609
Format: TEL
From: PESHAWAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770616/aaaaaofl.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a6c57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 147704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2027485
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED ABROAD
TAGS: CARR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6c57e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009